by them to the J & K State authorities for enhancement of support price of silk concoons.

Since fixation of cocoon price is a State subject, the State Sericulture Department of J & K has been requested to consider, the matter sympathetically and take appropriate action. However, in order to encourage production of bivoltine silk in the country, the Central Silk Board (CSB) has been implementing a scheme for payment of incentive bonus of Rs. 10/- per Kg. of bivoltine hybrid cocoons produced by rearers, by sharing the expenditure equally between the Central Silk Board and the participating States. As far as J & K is concerned, the above scheme for payment of incentive bonus has been modified on the request of the State Government and the incentive bonus is being paid on bivoltine seed cocoons produced by the rearers of the State. The Central Silk Board has released a sum of Rs. 4.09 lakhs to the J & K State Sericulture Department being CSB's share for the year 1992-93.

Reopening of the Textile Package by USA

1568. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that USA is going back on its assurances and is attempting to reopen the textile package to demand on the increase of the transition period with regard to GATT talks;

(b) what steps Government have taken in this regard; and

(c) whether Government have filed a caveat in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c) Government are aware of the moves on the part of the US Government to seek an extension of the phase out of the Multi Fibre Arrangement. Government of India have conveyed its serious concern on this development to the US Government.

Multi Fibre Agreement with USA on Textile Exports

1569. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM:

SHRI VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Governments consideration to review the Multi-Fibre Agreement (MFA) with U.S.A.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether USA is becoming increasingly reductant to export textile products from India; and

(d) if so, what are the efforts made by Government to increase textile exports to USA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (d) Trade in textiles with USA is currently regulated by a bilateral textile agreement between India and USA under the Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA). The term of the bilateral agreement expires on 31-12-1993 and the extension of the agreement under the MFA for another term is under negotiation between the two countries. Under the Uruguay Round Negotiations, the MFA is expected to be phased out in accordance with the transition Arrangement provided for in the Draft Final Act (Dunkel Draft). India's access of textile products to USA and exports of these items have been increasing in recent years.

Inter-Ministerial Committee Report on Handloom Problems

1570. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Minister of Textiles held a meeting with Ministry of Finance and a representative of the handloom Industry on 19th August, 1992 for discussing problems of the handloom industry;